



“This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of WWF and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government”

WWF TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT

PART 1: GENERAL NARRATIVE REPORT

(EVERY 3 MONTHS -APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER, JANUARY-)

<b>Project/ Programme Title:</b>	<b>Mitigating Interethnic Land Conflict in Colombia: Securing Territory and Resource Rights in Rural Communities</b>
<b>Award Number:</b>	AID-514-A-09-00003
<b>Project Duration:</b>	February 25/2009 – February 24/2011
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	<b>IQ FY2010:</b> October 1 - December 31/ 2009
<b>Name (writer(s) of this report):</b>	Maria Fernanda Jaramillo
<b>Position/ Title:</b>	Social and Community Development Coordinator
<b>Organisation:</b>	WWF Colombia
<b>Date:</b>	January 30, 2010

**1) Introduction. This section resumes the main issues occurred during the reporting period—context or organizational issues—highlighting project successes.**

**Attending the “Permanent invitation (*convite* in Spanish) to defend and protect the land in harmony with men, women, and nature** more than 900 indigenous made a mobilization in Mutatá to demonstrate the power of the Embera culture to contribute to the pacific resolution of territorial conflicts and to claim for the respect to the collective rights from the rest of the population.

**The Chigorodó Indigenous Authority has strengthened the territorial control and governance strategy through the naming of 200 new community guards:** During a very impressive ceremony –where USAID and WWF were invited in the community of Polines- 50 women and 150 men gave their word to their communities, elders and leaders to protect and defend the territorial and collective rights and to help the indigenous authorities (“gobernadores”) to apply the indigenous law. This is a big step towards the territorial security in these ethnic territories.

**“La Fragüita River Basin Rural Development Committee”, a small organization but a big ally:** with the support of the National Natural Park Alto Fragua Indi Wasi and WWF this community based organization concluded the socio-economic assessment phase in the six communities of the high and medium Fragüita river basin; the information gathered during the participatory workshops has been the key to determine the expected results and activities to develop during the next year of the project.

**2) Status of advances, achievements, and projections per each case of work**

*SEE report – monitoring matrix in an annex*

**3) Problems and Constraints.** Highlight any failures, problems or constraints that have affected progress, and describe the measures taken to respond to them. List any key changes to the external environment in which the project is operating (especially where these relate to risks identified in project plan).

- **One step forward, two steps behind:** during this quarter former discussions and threats among traditional **Awa and Kofan** leaders have arisen and some members of the Awa organization in Putumayo (ACIPAP) and the Kofan Committee have polarized their positions over the territorial conflict and it seems that there are not conditions for the parts to negotiate under the “gain – gain” formula. The first month of the next quarter will be decisive to decide the possible achievements of the project in this site.
  - In terms of the country context **the intensification of armed conflict events in some of the project places is an advance of what is going to happen during the next semester within the “electoral year”**: the presence and control of the guerrilla over some territories has been a common place during this quarter, obstructing the access of staff and consultants to some of the project sites (mainly in Caquetá and Putumayo); it is predictable that the situation is going to worsen, so it is urgent to design a strategy with the project partners and collaborators to work in this context.
- 4) **Learning and Sharing.** Describe key lessons learned, that are important to your project or that may be of use to others outside this project. They may relate to any of the following: successes, strategies adopted, challenges you are facing, surprise results, management processes, or technical understanding.
- **About the “heaviness” of the cultural dimension of the conflicts:** despite the workshops, meetings and any formal way to try to strengthen the capacities to transform the conflictive situations, it has been evident through the actions of this project that the ancestral way to conceive and solve conflicts is key at the moment that the leaders and community members decide how to solve the conflicts nowadays. As an example: the Embera Deyabida (“Embera People from the Mountain”) of Chigorodó used to “solve” personal or familiar conflicts with the help of the *Jaibaná*; these spiritual leaders with strong powers could sicken even kill the other part in conflict (so the implicit approach to conflict resolution is something like “to dissolve the conflict by the subtraction of one of the parts in conflict”). Nowadays we have seen a tendency in the Eyabida leaders and communities to approach the territorial conflicts with the peasants in a very “warrior” way; not a violent way but discursively and practically not in line with the “gain – gain” approach. This evidence has been key to redefine the methodology in all the cases we have detected it, reorienting activities from formal to more informal learning and negotiation situations.
  - **The information pre-conditions to approach to territorial conflict transformation in order to be effective:** when WWF and partners formulated the Territorial Security project some basic information about land tenure status, socio-economic and organizational situations were not clear; in fact this information gathering was planned as one of the first activities of the project. But the fact is that as the information has been gathered and analyzed more realistic targets and results can be planned. The Caquetá case is a very good example of how to proceed: before establishing targets and results, WWF and partners define the route to get base line information on socio-economic, organizational, environmental and land tenure status issues; it has been very useful for a better comprehension of the conflict situations and dynamics regarding biodiversity, water and forest resources access and use, and for the appropriate establishment of targets and expected results in each case.
- 5) **Adaptive Management.** Based on your analysis of the situation and the project's progress, which project objectives and activities have been changed, or will need to be changed? Please attach latest versions of your action plan (e.g. workplan) and monitoring plan, if changes have been made.

**A major change in expected results, targets and activities has to be done regarding the Awa / Kofan conflict in Putumayo.** During the previous months WWF has been trying to establish a work plan with the Kofan Permanent Committee; due to different situations all the efforts have been unproductive; as a consequence **WWF has defined that there are not institutional conditions to establish a formal co-financial agreement or even to reach an agreement to develop a workplan with the Kofan Permanent Committee in the short time**; under that circumstances WWF can not guarantee that the expected results and outputs that were defined during the formulation of the proposal for the Putumayo case can be achieved in the next 12 months. This decision will have strong consequences to be negotiated with the Kofan organization, ACIPAP and USAID. The proposal will be reoriented to continue the organizational and administrative strengthening activities with ACIPAP

(including the issue of conflict resolution but oriented towards the internal conflict resolution, not to the resolution of the territorial conflict with the Kofan).

- 6) **Communications/ Stories.** Highlight any actions or successes meriting communications attention e.g. positive media coverage, success stories, contacts made (such as with government), major events.

*See annex: communication story*

- 10) Overall Assessment of progress.** Assess whether the project has made the expected progress against the action plan and project indicators, and whether the planned objectives will be achieved.

At the end of the first year of implementation we would like to do this overall assessment of progress from **two perspectives:**

**1. Considering the project expected results and planned activities:** the project has considerable delays in objectives 1 and 3; as was said in a previous point (5) WWF is planning to redefine the conflict case in Putumayo due to the difficulties to carry out the activities as planned. The only case that is advancing as planned is Caquetá. The indicators matrix of each case (point 2 above in this report) can illustrate in detail these affirmations.

**2. From the point of view of the learning process and the strengthening of the relationships between WWF and partners:** In a recent follow up activity and balance of the first year of implementation, this project has been appreciated by WWF partners, staff and consultants as an excellent school and experience given the necessity of a very close and continue follow up of activities, coordination of complementary support, revision of methodologies and strategies, analysis of what has worked and what hasn't.